



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENCES, PROPOSE ALTERNATIVES *Supervisors ask for leadership and constructive input from County Executive*

Milwaukee, WI—Several Milwaukee County Supervisors say they had no choice but to vote to override County Executive Scott Walker's veto of the entire County budget. "We would have liked to see the County Executive highlight parts of the Budget he disagreed with, along with some alternatives," said 1st Vice Chairman Richard Nyklewicz, Jr., who also chairs the County Board's Finance Committee. "He had an opportunity to veto, but he knew he would have to veto restorations to public safety, the courts, the district attorney's office, transit, and swimming pools."

Immediately after the vote to override, the County Executive said he and the Board agreed on all but \$8.4 million of next year's spending, less than one percent of the Budget. County Supervisor Lynne De Bruin agreed, and said, "If Scott Walker wanted to work with us, he should have line-item vetoed the parts of our Budget he didn't like. He might have gotten the tax levy increase down to perhaps one or two percent, but to throw out the whole Budget was irresponsible this late in the game. I was forced to vote to override, and approve a 3.64% increase."

While the 2007 Budget raises the tax levy by \$8,455,329, it's \$1,313,557 below the state imposed cap on tax levy increases. "I think it's important to mention that the Board's adopted tax levy increase was 15% below that cap. We could have legally gone up the full amount," Nyklewicz said. The average homeowner in the City of Milwaukee will see the County portion of their property tax bill go up approximately \$33.

Walker said a week would be enough time to sustain his veto and come to an agreement on the budget. But that would have been nearly impossible for several reasons. Because the County Executive vetoed the entire budget, and did not outline which portions of the budget he disagreed with, the Board would have had to start from scratch. That could take at least several weeks. It could have prevented constituents from receiving their property tax bills before the end of the year,

keeping them from getting federal tax credits for property taxes paid in 2006. Also, the County Executive is out of the office on vacation until November 27th.

“It’s unfortunate the County Executive chose to veto the entire budget, rather than focusing on specific issues and highlighting his differences,” Nyklewicz said. “But that was his decision, not the County Board’s. We need to work together to implement this Budget. We can still make revisions throughout the year, as we have done in the past. If he has alternatives, I encourage him to bring them forward.”

“True leadership in this type of situation requires finding middle ground and bringing differing sides together,” said County Board Chairman Lee Holloway. “That leadership has to come from the County Executive.”